



**BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**  
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## **IMPORTANT UPDATES TO LEP LAWS**

### ***EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2007***

In 2006, the Board sponsored legislation to update the statutes pertaining to Licensed Educational Psychologists (LEP). The laws related to LEPs had not been significantly updated in many years. This resulted in the statute becoming outdated, containing obsolete provisions, and not keeping up with requirements for similar professions.

This bill (Senate Bill 1475, Figueroa) will take effect on January 1, 2007. The main changes are to statutes regarding licensure requirements, scope of practice, continuing education, and enforcement. **However, certain provisions such as the new continuing education and licensing requirements will not become effective until at least mid-2007 as the board will need to seek regulations to clarify and implement these requirements.**

This legislation accomplishes all of the following:

1. Clarifies the scope of practice for consistency with the scope of services provided by credentialed school psychologists. The revisions are not intended to expand the scope of services provided by LEPs, but are designed to better define those services and establish a clear parallel with the services authorized by a Pupil Personnel Services credential in school psychology. The new LEP scope of practice is as follows:

“The practice of educational psychology is the performance of any of the following professional functions pertaining to academic learning processes or the educational system or both:

- (a) Educational evaluation.-
- (b) Diagnosis of psychological disorders related to academic learning processes.
- (c) Administration of diagnostic tests related to academic learning processes including tests of academic ability, learning patterns, achievement, motivation, and personality factors.
- (d) Interpretation of diagnostic tests related to academic learning processes including tests of academic ability, learning patterns, achievement, motivation, and personality factors.
- (e) Providing psychological counseling for individuals, groups and families.
- (f) Consultation with other educators and parents on issues of social development, behavioral and academic difficulties.
- (g) Conducting psychoeducational assessments for purposes of identifying special needs.
- (h) Developing treatment programs and strategies to address problems of adjustment.
- (i) Coordinating intervention strategies for management of individual crises.”

2. Reorganizes the LEP statutes into a new chapter of the Business and Professions Code (Chapter 13.5).

3. Updates numerous provisions to increase the consistency between the LEP statute and the Marriage and Family Therapist and Licensed Clinical Social Worker statutes, including:
  - a. Refining the definition of unprofessional conduct.
  - b. Establishing a continuing education requirement. A minimum of 60 hours would be required for each two-year renewal period. LEPs who received their school psychologist credential on or after July 1, 1994 will be exempt from this requirement, as persons credentialed after that date are required by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to complete 150 hours of professional development every five years.
  - c. Requiring all compensation received by an LEP to be in relation to professional counseling services actually provided, and prohibiting any fee from being charged for collaboration between two or more licensees in a case except when disclosure of the fee has been made to the client.
  - d. Minor revisions to the requirements for licensure, most of which are designed to remove former grandparenting provisions. The changes are detailed below:

	Current Requirement	New Requirement	Difference
1.	Applicant must possess, at minimum, a master's degree in psychology, educational psychology, school psychology, or counseling and guidance or a degree deemed equivalent by the board.	Applicant must possess, at minimum, a master's degree in psychology, educational psychology, school psychology, or counseling and guidance.	The board will no longer have the authority to deem a different degree equivalent.
2.	Applicant must have successfully completed 60 semester hours of postgraduate work devoted to pupil personnel services or have experience deemed equivalent by the board.	Applicant must have successfully completed 60 semester hours of postgraduate work devoted to pupil personnel services.	The board will no longer have the authority to deem other types of experience as equivalent.
3.	Applicant must have completed three years of full-time experience as a credentialed school psychologist in the public schools or experience which the board deems equivalent.	Applicant must have completed three years of full-time experience as a credentialed school psychologist in the public schools.	The board will no longer have the authority to deem other types of experience as equivalent.
4.	If the applicant has completed one year's internship working full-time as a school psychologist intern in the public schools in an accredited internship program, one year's experience shall be credited toward this requirement.	N/A	The board will no longer accept this type of experience unless it meets the new requirement specified in #5 below.
5.	At least one year of the experience specified in #3 (above) shall be supervised professional experience in an accredited school psychology program or obtained under the direction of a licensed psychologist, or suitable alternative experience as determined by the board.	At least one year of the experience specified in #3 (above) shall be supervised professional experience in an accredited school psychology program or obtained under the direction of a licensed psychologist or licensed educational psychologist.	<p>The board will no longer have the authority to deem alternative experience as equivalent.</p> <p>Experience may also be gained under the supervision of a licensed educational psychologist.</p>
6.	None	The experience specified in #3 and #5 (above) will NOT be credited if it was gained more than six years prior to filing the application for licensure.	New requirement